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REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1,2,4,5,7,8, 11 and 12 have been amended and new claims 13-18 have been added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huotari et al (US Pub. No. 2002/0004935) in view of Wang et al (US 6,636,505).

Claims 1, 8 and 12 directed to a method, system and modem as amended recite "transmitting an authentication request including a user identifier from a modem to multiple domain names of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) over a PPPoE network; and receiving authorization for the modem from at least one but not all of said domain names of the ISP associated with said user identifier" (p. 9, l. 27-30) or limitations similar thereto. The key here is that there are multiple domain names associated with the ISP. These domain names are not the high level simple domain name typically associated with an ISP such as AOL or Cox. These are detailed internal domain names associated with, for example, the plurality of BSN nodes of an ISP (see p. 16, l. 1-5). The modem transmits the authentication request to multiple domain names because neither the subscriber or the modem is provided with a priori knowledge indicating the correct domain name(s) for that particular modem and user.

In both Huotari and Wang, the client or modem is provided the correct domain name a priori and for a given ISP transmits the request to the one known domain name. Huotari receives the domain name a priori via a preconfigured analog modem (§64, 19, ¶16), on CD ROM (§108, 115) or manually over the phone (§97, 17). Wang may support user selection from multiple 'registered' ISPs or even concurrent connections to different ISPs via service icons on a GUI (See Fig. 6) but the ADSL modem is provided with the one correct domain name a priori for each of the one or more connections (Col. 9, lines 48-67 and Col. 10 lines 10-54). The user clicks on an icon, which causes an authentication request to be sent to the one domain for the selected service provider.

As claimed in the invention, the modem is provided with multiple possible domain names to try and transmits the request to those names. This simplifies

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provisioning and installation of the modem because instead of having to deal with each user to provide the correct domain name, the ISP can simply ship a great number of modems provided with multiple domain names to try. (P. 15, l. 27-30) Authorization is then received from at least one but not all of the possible names. The user may establish multiple concurrent services with the same ISP, e.g. data, Web Serving and VOIP, which is the case when more than one authorization is received. Alternately, the modem may transmit the authentication request to multiple ISPs each having multiple domain names to establish these different services.

Claims 17 and 18 as amended describe a method and system for provisioning broadband service in a PPPoE network. They are differentiated over the cited art in that (a) an authentication request with a user identifier is sent to multiple domain names of an ISP from a list stored in the modem and authorization including a static IP address is received back from at least one but not all of the domain names and (b) the processes modem-driven; the modem itself includes the instructions for requesting a user identifier from the client computer, receiving the user identifier, transmitting the authentication request and receiving the authorization.

Huotari and Wang are "host driven" in that they use a software application running on a machine other than the DSL modem itself to acquiring the DSL modem configuration data and then configure the modem. Huotari's three different "automatic" installation methods including dial-up via a configured analog modem, CD ROM and manual entry are all host driven and hardly automatic. Wang addresses automatic provisioning of an ADSL modem embedded in a PC (together a CPE). The DSLAM 90 is configured with user specific information. Upon user activation, the CPE uses the ILMI protocol to get information about the connection from the DSLAM 90. This connection information and information about the service providers 100 'registered' to the user is provided to the CPE (col. 9, lines 57-67). Applications on the CPE access this information, automatically provision the modem and automatically provide a user friendly interface which allows a user to access the service to which they have subscribed (col. 7, l48-53). The application automatically connects the user to the appropriate ATM resource when the user selects a provider 100 from within the application (col. 10, lines 2-5).

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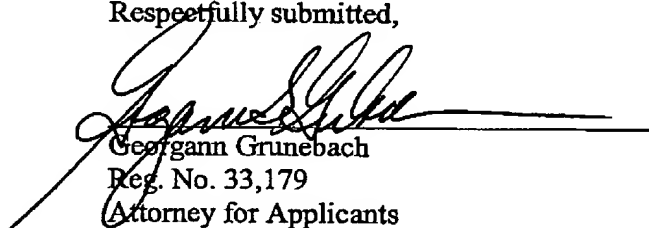
The rejections of claims 1-12 in over Huotari in view of Wang are respectfully traversed and new claims 13-18 are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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